

Will the Duc Dare to Make Film Star his Duchesse?

The Romantic Scion of the Vallombrosas Runs Midnight Errands for Movie Heroine Who, Paris Says, Is Sure to Be "Her Grace" Despite His Ancestors and Relatives.

THE sight of a very dapper young man in a popular midnight restaurant in Paris running out to a waiting cab at the command of a vivacious young woman who had expressed a desire for a piece of new jazz music is taken by the Boulevardiers of Paris to mean that the American film world soon is to have a duchesse of its own.

The new film duchesse, if the prophets are correct, will be the charming Miss Pearl White, whose blondness and daring are known around the world because of her many startling cinema exploits.

Of course the question at once arises: "Who is the Duke who is to make the film star a duchesse?" The answer, say the prophets mentioned above, is "none other than the distinguished, wealthy and variously noted Louis, Duc de Vallombrosa." He was the young man who, at the midnight scene in the restaurant, rose from the table at which the blond Miss White was his guest, bowed gallantly and ran away to find, somewhere in Paris, even at that midnight hour, a copy of the latest jazz tune from the United States, which his companion had said she would like to have that the orchestra might play it. This, of course, was a very small incident upon which to build the prospects of a ducal coronet for even Miss White; but prophets in Paris are wise and more often than not know correctly whereof they predict.

It is interesting to speculate upon the position Miss White will hold should she become, as is expected now, the new Duchesse de Vallombrosa. Although he has been married before, and the rather startling incidents of his divorce still burn the ears of the very best circles in Paris, the young Duc Louis has maintained a proud position in the most exclusive ranks of the Bourbon loyalists. To his record there are at least three duels. One of these, it is said, concerned a very beautiful young woman of the theater. Another caused the name of the wife of a British diplomatic attaché to be mentioned in the clubs. The exact cause of the third duel never has been disclosed, although there seems to be little doubt that a lady was responsible. It was little more than a year ago that Duc Louis obtained a divorce from the exquisitely beautiful seventeen-year-old daughter of Mme. Bourg de Bozas.

Mlle. de Bozas was one of the richest young women in France. She met the Duc about four years ago on the Riviera. It is said of the Duc that every time he has fallen in love it has been at first sight. It was characteristic of him, therefore, that when he met the charming Mlle. Theresa he should first ask her to stroll with him in the moonlight on the beach; second, that he should ask her if she were a party to any seriously considered engagement; third, having received her startled and blushing negative, ask if she would not immediately become engaged to and soon marry him.

The Young Duke's Romance With His Former Wife

It was too bad that such a pretty romance, brought to its climax with all the dash and verve that even this prosaic world admires in the noble descendants of the old time feudal barons, should have found its path strewn with rocks. Somehow the Duc and his new Duchesse did not quite get along. In fact, one of the three duels mentioned above occurred just a year after the marriage. On the other hand, when the Duc applied for his divorce he made a most amazing group of accusations against his wife. Which, of course, she at once denied. However, the divorce was granted less than a year ago, and he again became a familiar figure in the cafes and in the haunts of beauty which had known him so familiarly a few years before.

Almost immediately afterward there arrived in Paris the young woman who is perhaps the world's most famous representative of blond feminine attractiveness.

Almost any other young woman would have arrived in Paris at the railway station. Miss White, however, admits that her income of close to one million dollars a year is earned by doing everything she does in the most unexpected and thrilling way. So it really is not surprising that she dropped in on Paris out of the air, having come by airplane from London.

Her arrival was greeted, however, by a delegation of French diplomats, statesmen and gay young men, who vied with each other in doing honor to the famous young woman. Among them was the Duc de Vallombrosa. He could have been easily distinguished in this group of dig-

and even to the press in general, that she would never have another hero for a husband. She declared that laurels were quite the thing at Christmas time, but did not set well on the head of a man with whom one had to breakfast every day in the year.

Despite this cynicism, born of an unpleasant experience, as she said it was, Miss White will be taking to her daily breakfast table another hero if she accepts the Duke. For during the latter days of the war all France rang with the brave exploits of Capt. le Duc de Vallombrosa. At a desperate time in the progress of an important engagement at the front near



To right—The Duc de Vallombrosa and his bride, just after their romantic wedding. They were recently startlingly divorced.

Above—Some of the American friends of the Vallombrosa family at a costume ball given by the present Duke's father just before his death; left to right, Mr. Pierre Jay, Mrs. Arthur Iselin, Count de Perigny, the Marquis de Vallombrosa, the Duke's father; Mrs. Goodhue Robinson and Mrs. Richard Stevens.

nitaries even by a stranger, as he was the tallest, most handsome and most gallant of them all. In his hand he carried a large cluster of roses and after others had shaken hands with the fair visitor and he had given her the welcome of France the young Duc stepped forward and, bending low, said:

"Through the others, Mademoiselle, France itself has welcomed you. Through me the hearts of all who know the thrill of life express happiness in your coming."

Miss White has become one of the most familiar figures at many of the more fashionable Paris cafes. And wherever she is seen nowadays her companion always is the young Duke. At the recent divorce trial between the Duke and his young Duchesse it appeared that he had been surprisingly a martinet of a husband. He had been cold and haughty and dictatorial, the pretty wife testified. There had been no romance at all, she said, in their union. And yet now no Juliet ever had a more slavish and subservient Romeo than has Miss White in the infatuate possession of Monsieur le Duc. The incident of the gallant chase after the missing music at midnight was just a sample of his constant attitude toward the young woman who seems to have charmed him. How else, ask those who observe, can such a situation end except in marriage?

Not First Matrimonial

Adventure for Actress

If Miss White does become a Duchess it will not be her first matrimonial venture. In fact, despite her youth, it will be her third. Her first husband was Victor Sutherland, an actor, to whom she was married in 1914. After two years she divorced Mr. Sutherland and shortly after was married to a hero of the war, Major Wallace McCutcheon. Major McCutcheon was an author of considerable popularity. In April, 1921, Miss White also divorced him. At that time she announced to her friends,

Metz Capt. Louis, it seems, ran out of his trench with a mere handful of volunteers and in the face of almost overwhelming odds silenced a whole battery of machine guns, bringing back with him as prisoners twice as many of the enemy as were those under his command.

For this he received not only the honor of a special citation in the Commander-in-Chief's order of the day, but the Croix de Guerre as well. At almost the same time his brother, Count Paul, attracted similar attention at another point along the front and gained the same distinguished recognition. The old Bourbon families were especially proud in those days of these two young noblemen, who had shown, as they expressed it, that in time of great need "it always is blood that tells."

Perhaps Mlle. Theresa was still thinking of this public acclaim of the young Duc when that night on the beach in the moonlight she allowed herself to be carried away toward marriage by the impetuous Duc. But certainly after her previous experience with a hero, which she says was so unpleasant, it is not Duc Louis's Croix de Guerre that has touched the heart of Miss White. She perhaps more than any young woman in the world is accustomed to great feats of daring. They are in fact

the foundation of her own million dollar a year income.

If she does become the Duchesse, of which her intimates say there is no doubt at all, Miss White will acquire a most distinguished and interesting company of relatives. The Marquis de Mores, mother of the Duc de Vallombrosa, was a beautiful American girl, daughter of the New York financier, the late Baron de Hoffmann. As Miss Medora de Hoffmann she was one of the most popular of the debutantes of her time. Her father was immensely wealthy, and held one of the highest social positions in New York. She was loved by the leaders among the most exclusive families and was considered one of the most attractive and accomplished young women in society.

She married the Marquis de Mores, heir to the old Duc de Vallombrosa, in 1882. The Marquis, father of the present Duc, was one of the most popular men in France. He was murdered while on an expedition in the Sahara desert. Although the titles of the Vallombrosas are Italian, having come to them through Sardinian inheritances, the family always has considered itself French. It has been foremost among the Bourbon loyalists, but has never engaged in any of the intrigues which have been frowned upon by

the republic. Whatever agitation it has participated in for the restoration of the monarchy has been wholly political and quite within the limitations set by law.

At the former marriage of the young Duc the list of wedding guests might well have been just so many pages clipped from the Almanach de Gotha. The family has been prominent in the affairs of Europe since the year 1300, for it was then the feudal house of Manca appeared in history as the owners of almost the entire group of islands of which Sardinia is the center. The title Marquis de Mores was bestowed upon the head of this house in 1459, and in 1818 the title De Vallombrosa was added. There are many others belonging to them.

In this long history of prominence the Vallombrosas have made many marriages which link them with other ducal and princely houses of the continent. And their power and influence has been such that statesmen and financiers have been glad to be on their list of friends. All of these, of course, were represented at the wedding.

In addition there are the family friends of the late Marquis de Mores in America and the many friends here of the young Duc himself. The young man was educated at Yale. In fact, he was born in America. Young Vincent Astor always has been one of his friends and the young men of the Vanderbilts and Goulds enjoy his hospitalities in Paris, where he has

a beautiful town residence on the Boulevard Suchet.

As the new Duchesse will Miss White be just as much at ease in such a distinguished circle of friends and relatives as she has been when surrounded by those who have been more customarily her companions in the past—cinema directors, vivacious stars of the film world, expert camera operators and the managers of the great movie companies? In this circle dukes and duchesses not often are admitted. These ladies and gentlemen represent a world very busy and expertly keyed to the high tension of that "game" which the movie world plays for the attraction of the dimes and quarters which go

to make up such great incomes as that Miss White unquestionably has enjoyed.

There are no ducal circles at Hollywood, and certain conventions that bind the customary acquaintances of the Vallombrosas seem to be scorned in the social side of the film world. Its dukes and lords and ladies are largely bright young men and women who have acquired a knack of wearing evening clothes with sufficient grace to add conviction to their noble impersonations on the screen. It is a matter of actual fact, of course, that many dukes and lords have fought duels because of Miss White—screen duels, however, that somehow do not quite smack of the romance and thrills of those three duels which are accredited to the real Duke who waits so faithfully now upon this film star's whims.

It is to be wondered if Miss White, should she become the Duchesse—her full name would be Duchesse de Vallombrosa, Duchesse dell' Astnara, Marquise de Mores and Monte Maggiora, Countess de sa Giorgio, Baroness de Tissi, Tissi, Ossai and Usini—it is to be wondered then if when she is first received in America upon such a honeymoon if she will remember those exquisite graces which at the teachings of her film directors she has displayed as hostess or guest of honor in so many film drawing rooms while impersonating the nobilities created for her in the imaginings of scenario writers.

Shadow of the "Jazz"

Athwart Ducal Romance

And it is to be wondered too if Miss White, who is declared by her present friends to be the most skilled American exponent of the popular dance which is best performed by a liberal use of the shoulders during rest periods in the music, will continue the practice of this peculiar gift during her gay moments in view of the memory of the Duc's recent divorce affair. One of his serious charges against the Duchesse Theresa was that she had amused herself with his friends by engaging in this shoulder dance, at which, he declared, she had mysteriously become quite expert. The Duc did not like to think of his wife as being devoted to such unusual demonstrations. Will he be of different mind if Miss White refuses to put aside her fondness for "superjazz"? Certainly one must consider that the Duc nursed away at midnight from the restaurant to find a piece of such music when Miss White expressed a wish for it, and that when he returned he joined her on the dance floor in her interpretations of it.

It certainly will be amusing to some if America gives Europe a film duchesse who will continue to be a "jazz" enthusiast as well as a star attraction in the most thrilling of the movies.